



First Responder Network Authority Weekly Update to the State and Territory Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) – August 10, 2015

FirstNet News

- The FirstNet Board held a Special Finance Committee Meeting last week, during which the Committee recommended Board approval of the FY 2016 budget. The presentation discussed during the meeting, as well as the resolution adopted by the Finance Committee, are posted on the [website](#).
- This week, we have initial consultation meetings scheduled with Hawaii and American Samoa. FirstNet is also participating in the National Joint Tribal Emergency Management Conference, National Rural Intelligent Transportation System conference, the APCO board meeting and conference, and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) board meeting. Federal activities include a U.S. Department of Agriculture Chief Information Officer briefing and corresponding meeting discussing tribal involvement with Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS).
- We held our initial state consultation meeting in Pennsylvania last week. FirstNet also participated in the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Legislative Summit, EMS PINNACLE 2015, the Missouri Sheriffs' Association Conference and the Tennessee Consolidated Network for Emergency Communications and Technology (TN-CNECT) conference. FirstNet also met with the SPOCs and various state representatives in Washington and Oregon. Federal activities included a data collection meeting with the U.S. Department of Labor and an Emergency Communications Preparedness Center (ECPC) Grants Focus Group meeting.
- To date, FirstNet has held 44 state consultation meetings involving more than 2,800 public safety representatives. Future consultations are confirmed for: Hawaii (8/11-12), American Samoa (8/13-14), Indiana (8/26), Michigan (9/1), New Jersey (9/3), Alaska (9/9), Arizona (9/15), Virginia (9/30), CNMI (10/20), Guam (10/22) and Oklahoma (10/28). An updated schedule can be viewed on the [website tracker](#).

News from the PSAC, States and Territories

- The PSAC Executive Committee (EC) held its monthly conference call last week. Topics included working group/task team updates and planning for the September 30 EC meeting in Reston, VA.

- The PA-FirstNet team has been actively engaging the local and state public safety community in Pennsylvania in their data collection efforts. The team released agency and user surveys on April 28, 2015 and to date has received responses from over half of the Commonwealth's 67 counties. Over the next several weeks, the team plans to conduct up to 50 in-person workshops to assist agencies that have not yet responded to the surveys. Prior to submitting the final data collection package to FirstNet in support of the PA FirstNet State Plan, the PA-FirstNet team plans to hold a statewide conference to review and finalize results. The PA-FirstNet team leverages an innovative [YouTube virtual overview](#) which helps local and state stakeholders understand the importance of data collection. Additional information about the PA-FirstNet program is available at <https://www.pafirstnet.com/>. If you have specific questions regarding the PA-FirstNet data collection effort please contact Robert LeGrande II, from the PA-FirstNet team at RLeGrande@TheDigitalDecision.com.
- Vermont is targeting 850 Public Safety Entities (PSEs) as part of the FirstNet requested data collection. Vermont released their data collection survey, following the state consultation, in July and to date has received responses from over 50% of the entities targeted. A few key elements to their success included staffing, easy technology tools that enable real time measurements, contact information accuracy, and survey accessibility. Vermont built the survey on Google Forms, which automatically feeds in to a Google Excel workbook, where they track results in real time. The survey is accessible by visiting Vermont's website at <http://psbc.vermont.gov/>. Response data is telling the Vermont team that email blasts that have a person's first, last, and organization name are providing the most results. For additional information, please contact Tess Gauthier at Tess.Gauthier@vermont.gov and (802) 241-5397. For additional information, please see the attached "Vermont Data Collection" overview document that Vermont has developed for your reference.
- FirstNet will continue to feature various state data collection efforts over the next several weeks. If you would like to highlight your state or territory's effort, please email outreach@firstnet.gov.

Media Watch

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Traditional Media

FirstNet media coverage was moderate, with several stories about the upcoming FirstNet Board meetings in August and state/local FirstNet developments.

Radio Resource: NTIA Releases Report on Public-Safety In-Building Coverage

<http://www.radioresourcemag.com/News/NewsDetails/NewsID/13250>

The research, sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security, involved a team of researchers led by ITS and the University of Colorado at Boulder that developed experimental techniques to characterize and improve in-building communications with and without supplemental radio transmitters. The team targeted Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology, envisioned by the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), operating in public-safety frequency bands.

Houston Chronicle: Harris County To Be First In Nation With Public-Safety Broadband Network

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Harris-County-to-be-first-in-nation-with-6420785.php>

Harris County is on track next year to become the nation's first jurisdiction to launch a fully operational wireless broadband network for exclusive public safety use through the First Responder Network Authority, or FirstNet.

Web and Social Media

FirstNet social media accounts continue to be active. Twitter increased by 25 followers to a total of 2,521; LinkedIn has 865 users; YouTube has 145 subscribers; and Google+ has 50 users.

Last Friday's blog post by James Mitchell, "FirstNet Assessing Comments, Capabilities Statements on Special Notice, Draft RFP Documents" received coverage in some trade publications. All blog posts can be accessed through the FirstNet blog landing page at: www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog. Washington State SPOC Bill Schrier posted a blog on the forthcoming Board appointments that received attention from stakeholders and the FirstNet social media community – "[What We Need in the FirstNet Board](#)."